

Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions. Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of recovering debt from a customer with a charged-off credit account balance, the method at least partially implemented by a computer system and comprising:

creating a single recovery credit account for the customer with the charged-off credit account balance, the single recovery credit account not having a debt balance record; and

setting an opening credit balance of the recovery credit account to a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance and wherein the opening credit balance represents the entire debt obligation of the customer related to the charged-off credit balance.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising setting a credit limit for the recovery credit account that is less than the opening credit balance of the recovery credit account and wherein the recovery credit account is not open-to-buy until the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit.

3. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising issuing a credit token corresponding to the recovery credit account only after the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit, the credit token enabling access to an available balance of the recovery credit account.

4. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising issuing a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a payment amount that reduces the recovery account balance to less than the credit limit.
5. (original) The method of claim 2, further comprising charging an over limit fee when the recovery account balance is over the credit limit only after the recovery credit account balance has been less than the credit limit.
6. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising issuing a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a suggested payment.
7. (original) The method of claim 1, further comprising establishing an automatic payment service for payments to the recovery credit account from the customer.
8. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the difference between the charged-off credit account balance and the opening balance of the recovery credit account is a settlement value negotiated with the customer.

9. (currently amended) A computer comprising a memory for storing program instructions and a processor, responsive to the programming instructions, configured to:

create a single recovery credit account for a customer with a charged-off credit account balance, the single recovery credit account not having a debt balance record; and

set an opening credit balance of the recovery credit account to a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance and wherein the opening credit balance represents the entire debt obligation of the customer related to the charged-off credit balance.

10. (previously presented) The computer of claim 9, further configured to set a credit limit for the recovery credit account that is less than the opening credit balance of the recovery credit account and wherein the recovery credit account is not open-to-buy until the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit.

11. (original) The computer of claim 10, further configured to issue a credit token corresponding to the recovery credit account only after the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit, the credit token enabling access to an available balance of the recovery credit account.

12. (original) The computer of claim 10, further configured to issue a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a payment amount that reduces the recovery account balance to less than the credit limit.

13. (original) The computer of claim 10, further configured to charge an over limit fee when the recovery account balance is over the credit limit only after the recovery credit account balance has been less than the credit limit.

14. (original) The computer of claim 9, further configured to issue a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a suggested payment.

15. (original) The computer of claim 9, further configured to establish an automatic payment service for payments to the recovery credit account from the customer.

16. (original) The computer of claim 9, wherein the difference between the charged-off credit account balance and the opening balance of the recovery credit account is a settlement value negotiated with the customer.

17. (currently amended) A system comprising:

means for creating a single recovery credit account for a customer with a charged-off credit account balance, wherein the single recovery credit account does not have a debt balance record; and

means for setting an opening credit balance of the recovery credit account to a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance and wherein the opening credit balance represents the entire debt obligation of the customer related to the charged-off credit balance.

18. (previously presented) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for setting a credit limit for the recovery credit account that is less than the opening credit balance of the recovery credit account and wherein the recovery credit account is not open-to-buy until the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit.

19. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for issuing a credit token corresponding to the recovery credit account only after the recovery credit account balance is less than the credit limit, the credit token enabling access to an available balance of the recovery credit account.

20. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for issuing a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a payment amount that reduces the recovery account balance to less than the credit limit.

21. (original) The system of claim 18, further comprising means for charging an over limit fee when the recovery account balance is over the credit limit only after the recovery credit account balance has been less than the credit limit.

22. (original) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for issuing a bill to the customer for the recovery credit account wherein the bill includes a suggested payment.

23. (original) The system of claim 17, further comprising means for establishing an automatic payment service for payments to the recovery credit account from the customer.

24. (original) The system of claim 17, wherein the difference between the charged-off credit account balance and the opening balance of the recovery credit account is a settlement value negotiated with the customer.

25. (currently amended) A method of collecting credit card debt, the method comprising:
creating a single recovery credit account for a customer based on a charged-off credit account balance, the recovery credit account having an opening credit balance that has a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance and not having a debt balance record; and

prohibiting credit activity on the recovery credit account until the customer pays an open-to-buy amount.

26. (currently amended) A method of collecting credit card debt, the method comprising:
creating a single recovery credit account for a customer based on a charged-off credit account balance, the recovery credit account having an opening credit balance and not an associated debt balance and wherein the opening credit balance has a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance; and

setting an open-to-buy amount for the recovery credit account.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, further comprising issuing a credit token when the open-to-buy amount is paid by the customer.

28. (currently amended) A recovery credit account for a customer embodied in a computer system, the recovery credit account for the customer comprising:

a single credit account based on a charged-off credit account balance for a customer, the single credit account not being a debt account and having no debt balance record; and

an open-to-buy amount that specifies a threshold amount of the charged-off credit account balance to be paid by the customer before credit activity will be enabled on the recovery credit account.

29. (currently amended) A computer program for managing debt, the computer program embodied in a computer-readable medium and executable by a processor, the computer program comprising:

logic configured to create a single recovery credit account for a customer based on a charged-off credit account balance, the recovery credit account having an opening credit balance having a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance, the single recover credit account not being a debt account and having no debt balance record; and

logic configured to prohibit credit activity on the recovery credit account until the customer pays an open-to-buy amount.

30. (currently amended) A debt management system comprising:

means for creating a recovery credit account for a customer based on a charged-off credit account balance, the recovery credit account comprising a single credit account having an opening credit balance and not an associated debt balance and wherein the opening credit balance has a value equal to at least a portion of the charged-off credit account balance; and

means for setting an open-to-buy amount for the recovery credit account.

31. (currently amended) The debt management system of claim ~~30~~³¹, further comprising means for prohibiting credit activity on the recovery credit account until the customer pays the open-to-buy amount.